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Good Afternoon members and madam chair, my name is Barbara Rush and I am here to ask this committee to not fund common core which is embedded in SB175. Common Core is a national curriculum, which takes control over learning from our state, our school boards, our school administrators and our teachers. Totalitarian countries have national curriculums and these are huge power grabs and control over children and their parents, but they do not produce excellent academic results. China has never had a Nobel Prize. Common Core will take 70% of fiction literature out of our English classes at the high school level. Keats, Hemingway, Poe and Shakespeare will be thrown on the ash heap of history. When you destroy cultures ideas you destroy the culture. Are you ready to send the great ideas of Western Civilization to the ash heap of history? I'm not.

Common Core will force our schools to apply to a national entity to make changes when they find that curriculums are not working for their students. It will require that teachers teach to Common Core testing which is 40% open ended project oriented questions like the one that requires students to determine in a group that people should do energy conservation whether it saves them money or not, and then to make an advertisement to that effect. This is propaganda and indoctrination for a particular viewpoint. This is not what education is in a free society.

Our Montana State Board of Education mandated common Core illegally. They mandated this curriculum without an intervening legislature between proposal and ~~and~~ are here today asking for money for a curriculum they said would not cost money. There were not publicly noticed and held meetings to take public comment and inform the public about this curriculum. Only 10 professional meetings are listed in their log of public outreach and 4 of them were held in Helena. Missoula, Butte, and Great Falls along with most other cities in Montana had no public outreach at all. Please eliminate Common Core funding from SB175. Teachers and school districts should have a right to choose their own curriculums and our teachers should not be evaluated on the basis of tests made by a National Consortium.